

Boxing World

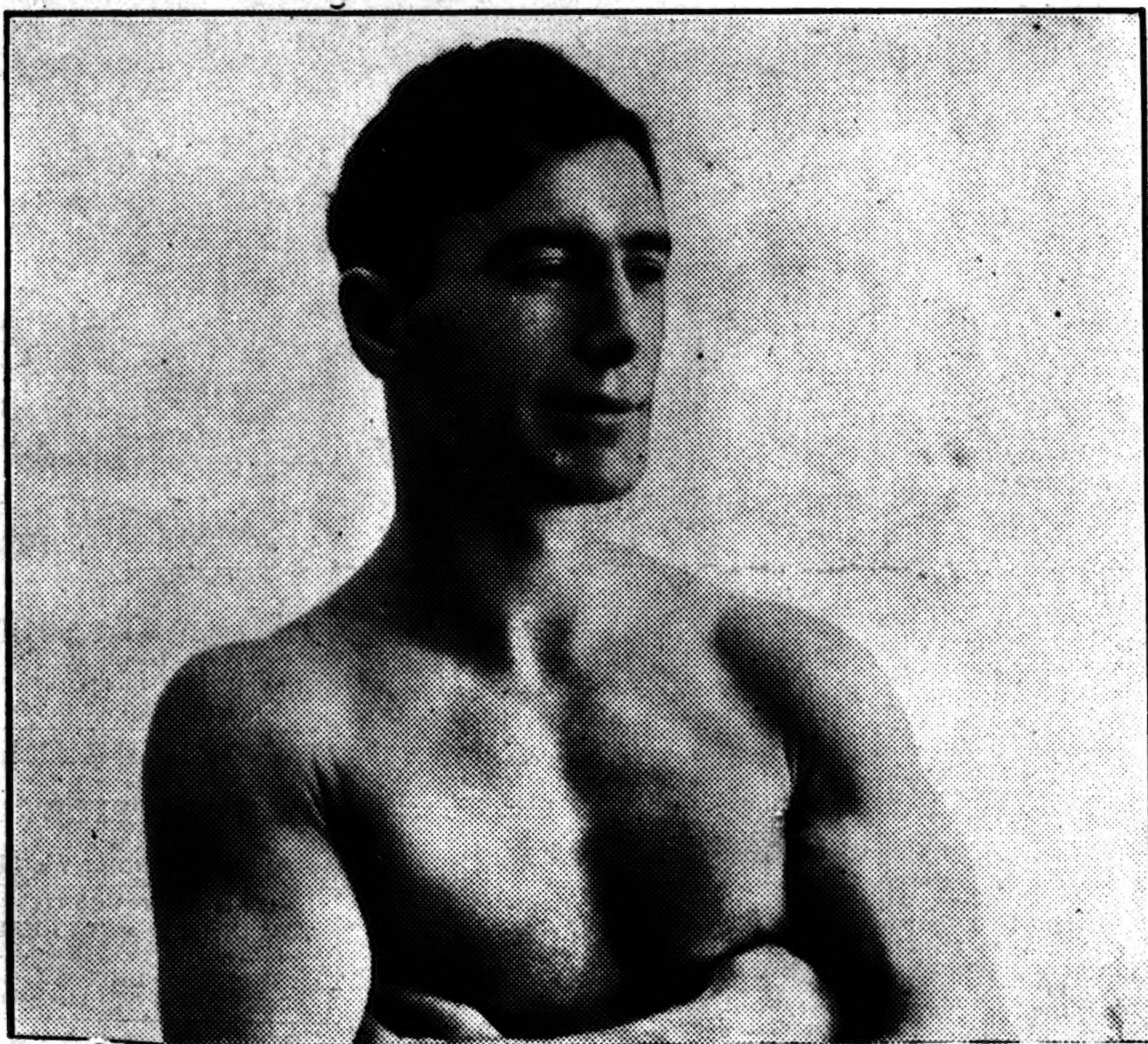
AND

MIRROR of LIFE

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SPORTING OBSERVER

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2d.



A MASTERLY BOXER.

JACK BRITTON, who may make an attempt to regain the world's welterweight title. He recently gave a capital display of boxing in defeating K.O. Phil Kaplan, a much younger man than himself in New York.

BOXING WORLD AND MIRROR OF LIFE

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FISTIC COMMENTS.

BROWN AND HINDLEY.

Though not in defence of his titles, Johnny Brown, of St. George's, is to engage in his first contest since he defeated Harry Lake, next Monday night at The Ring, where a little prior to meeting the Plymouth man he failed to give one of his best displays and was beaten by Johnny Curley. It is the champion's desire to reappear at the Blackfriars Road hall and convince the followers of boxing who gather there so often that his form against Curley was all wrong, and for this reason he readily consented to tackle Billy Hindley, of Horwich, there next Monday in a twenty rounds event at 8st. 8lbs.

Hindley, a stranger to the South—he has not yet boxed in London, I believe—is one of Lancashire's promising young boxers, and has accomplished some fairly good performances at the Liverpool Stadium, but it seems that he is attempting to go ahead a little too fast in meeting Brown, who has had quite a lot of experience. His belief in "nothing venture nothing gained," however, is strong I am told, and he feels that he will make a good effort to impress that he is just about in the champion's class.

On the Merseyside Hindley has opposed, amongst others, Frank Ash, Sammy Jones, Fred Vincent, "Kid" Nicholson and Eddie Harris, losing only to the first named. He was a preliminary boxer only a few months back, but has proved worthy of encouragement, and if he can spring a surprise and overcome Brown, a chance to box for the "bantam" title and Lonsdale belt may be his reward, as at present, unless Lake is disposed to make an attempt to regain the championship and trophy, there is nobody to send against Brown.

Like practically every other division, that for "bantams" is by no means overrun with good boxers, and one may hope that during this

year—and the sooner the better—some prospective champions will come to the front. Brown, like other title-holders, has no wish to find himself unemployed on account of a scarcity of worthy rivals, and I am told that he welcomed the news that Joe Lynch is to pay another visit to England. The prospect of a match with Lynch for the world's "bantam" championship pleases Brown, who has seen the Irish-American in action on several occasions, and believes he has quite a good chance of lowering his colours.

"KID" SYMONDS'S AMBITION.

When on a visit to Plymouth to referee Harry Lake's contest with Julien Couleaud on Boxing Day I saw Ernie ("Kid") Symonds, who is just back from Australia, where he engaged in numerous contests, and learned that he has returned with the ambition to box for the featherweight title which Joe Fox may have to defend in the near future. It is more than two and a half years since Symonds last boxed in England and beat Robert Dastillon at the Cosmopolitan Gymnasium, Plymouth, and he was given a good welcome when at that hall Mr. Harry Jenkins presented him to a big crowd on Boxing Day.

It may be recalled that Symonds made a fine bid to deprive Jim Higgins of the "bantam" title and Lonsdale belt early in 1921, when he appeared to have at least earned a draw but was adjudged the loser on points, and now that he has had good experience "down under" he has reason to feel that as a featherweight he is capable of testing the best man at home. A match with Fox is what he would prefer, but possibly he will be called upon to box another challenger of the champion.

Mick McAdam, the Scottish title-holder, is wanting a match with Fox, and it would not be a bad idea to bring Symonds and the Scot together to box for the right to battle for the championship. McAdam would, I am sure, be prepared to oppose Symonds, for only a few days ago Mr. Thomas Queen, who takes an interest in Mick, wrote me that the latter is willing to make a match with any 9st. man in the United Kingdom. McAdam has made several attempts to induce Danny Frush to meet him at 9st. with the backing of Mr. Queen, but Frush has preferred meeting "easier" marks, and since Phil Bond, one of the "easy" ones, beat him he has not attracted much attention as a candidate for featherweight honours.

A contest between Symonds and McAdam would make a National Sporting Club attraction for the near future and pave the way for a championship event between the winner and Fox at headquarters for a later date. Fox has not done very well during his stay in America and Canada, and Curley Wilshur, a Canadian who beat him in Toronto some little time back, has found his way to England in the hope of securing engagements.

FRENCH CHALLENGER OF MASON.

Fred Bretonnel, who met with only one reverse when he figured in several contests in London three or four years ago, has developed into a good lightweight, and, having won the championship of France by beating, amongst others, Paul Fritch, he now aspires to higher honours. A match with Harry Mason for the European lightweight title is what Bretonnel now seeks, and, judging by his latest performance, he is deserving of a chance to box for Mason's laurels. In Paris last Saturday Bretonnel, who is not yet out of his teens, defeated Ernie Rice, more convincingly than did Mason, I am told, and, but for the latter now being in America, efforts would doubtless be made to bring about a match between the pair.

TODD'S CONQUEROR BEATEN.

Tommy Loughran, the American light-heavyweight, who recently gained a decision over Roland Todd, met with defeat in New York on Boxing Day when he opposed Harry Greb, the champion American middleweight, in a ten rounds bout, the verdict going to Greb when the scheduled distance had been covered.

Greb, it may be mentioned, is to defend his title on the 18th inst. at Madison Square Garden, New York, against the former holder, Johnny Wilson. It was by beating the latter last August that Greb became champion, and, to get a return match, Wilson has had to consent to Harry taking nearly all the purse money.

By agreeing to meet Wilson in a title bout, Greb set at rest persistent rumours that he would dodge any

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THURSDAY, JAN. 3rd, 1924.
At 7.30 p.m.

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France v.

TOM MALLINSON

Leeds.

Weigh-in 2 o'clock, 10st. 4lbs, under forfeit.
IN THE RING AT 8.30

MARCEL DEVEVEY

France v.

YOUNG TILSTON

Chester

IN THE RING AT 7.45

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Manchester

TOM HURST v DICK ANDERSON

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and all matches in which it would be necessary for him to make middleweight poundage. Greb has said nobody should know better than himself his capabilities in regard to making the middleweight limit, and that he was supremely confident he can reduce himself and be strong enough to retain his laurels. In spite of Harry's positive statements, however, many Americans look upon him as a light-heavyweight.

Wilson has been fighting in much better form since he lost the honours to Greb after a two-year absence from the ring. He has, I learn, got down to business with commendable earnestness, and has won all his bouts.

"DOC" ALMY'S RESUMPTION.

Readers of the "Boxing World and Mirror of Life" will doubtless welcome the return of Mr. George O. ("Doc") Almy as a regular contributor of "American Boxing Gossip" to this paper, as, in the past, when he kept them posted with the doings of American and English ringsters on the other side, his gossip was of the live order, and, therefore, very interesting. A boxing critic who knows the game thoroughly, Mr. Almy is in a position to obtain and pass on to the readers of this journal reliable information, and, as several English boxers are now in the States, first-hand news from him of their contests will be very acceptable.

J. BISSELL.

CARDIFF.

FRANK KESTRELL KNOCKED OUT.

Frank Kestrell, the clever Welsh flyweight, met with defeat by the knockout route when on Saturday last at the Drill Hall, Cardiff, he figured in a fifteen rounds contest with Kid Anthony, America, who fought with fierceness throughout. Kestrell stood up to his whirlwind tactics for nine rounds, but he was put off his game. The knockout came as Kestrell was manoeuvring to get out of a corner. Leaving himself open, he received left and right on the jaw, and was down for eight. Immediately he rose the American sent another right to the jaw, and Kestrell took the full count.

NEWCASTLE BOUTS.

Making his first appearance at St. James's Hall, Newcastle, last Saturday, Alf Winfield (Nottingham) went against Charles Glover (Barnsley), whom he set about in bustling fashion, and had down in the first few seconds. Winfield was all over his man, and put him down for the full count after boxing a minute and a half.

In ten rounds contests Jim Hamilton (Sunderland) knocked out Ted Brown (Forest Hall) at the third meeting, and J. White (Felling) beat H. Harris (Byker) on points.

LIVERPOOL STADIUM.

JOHNNY BEE AND BILLY PRITCHARD WIN.

Johnny Bee, the Birkenhead middleweight, who recently defeated Len Johnson (Manchester) in London, was a winner again last Thursday night when, in a fifteen rounds event at the Liverpool Stadium he met Harry Moody, of Hull. In a third of the scheduled distance the bout was decided, the Yorkshire boxer being beaten by the knockout route.

It was more of a give and take affair than anything else, and Moody for a time sent good punches to the face and the ribs. These shots did not seem to bother his man much, however, and Bee appeared to be awaiting a chance to get over a punch that would bring his man down. This came his way at the fifth meeting, and he hooked the left to the jaw, with the result that Moody came down for a short count. The latter was none too steady after rising, and when Bee administered a few good punches to the head the bout finished, Moody going down for the full count.

Billy Pritchard (Stalybridge) and Ike Clarke (Birkenhead) were opponents in another fifteen rounds contest, which went all the way and was sometimes quite interesting and sometimes a little tame. The first four rounds produced only light hitting, but then the men put power behind their blows in exchanging to the body. Pritchard was a little more clever than the Birkenhead man, and at times his punches weakened Clarke, who boxed gamely. After about ten rounds both men were rather tired, but they disputed the issue fairly well, with Pritchard the better at leading, and in the end he got the verdict on points.

ANGLO-FRENCH BOUTS.

Two representatives of France, Francois Desprez and Marcel Delvevy, will be amongst the boxers doing duty at the Liverpool Stadium on Thursday night. They are engaged to figure in fifteen rounds events, meeting Tom Mallinson (Leeds) and "Young" Tilston (Chester) respectively. Desprez has already boxed at the Merseyside hall, and since he lost to Billy Mack there he has been beaten in London by Seaman Cox. He's a game, persevering boxer, however, and should give Mallinson a hard fight. His countryman, Delvevy, will be going against a lad who has been making steady headway in the game for some little time. Tilston, boxing in preliminary bouts at the Stadium, has put up some good performances.

Despite his recent upset at the hands of Tommy Loughran, of Philadelphia, Roland Todd has received some very complimentary criticisms on his boxing, and a future here is predicted for him.

HOXTON BATHS

PHIL SUFFLING DEFEATS "GIPSY" DANIELS.

Phil Suffling, the Herne Bay heavyweight, figured in and won his first contest since he carried off first prize in the recent heavyweight competition at the Crystal Palace, when, on Monday afternoon last, he met "Gipsy" Daniels, of Newport, on points over fifteen rounds. He defeated the Welshman by a wide margin, but cannot be said to have impressed in doing so, as Daniels, whom Tom Berry won over two or three weeks ago, is not a particularly good boxer.

The contest was never exciting, and knockdowns, which generally occur when big fellows are doing duty, were not forthcoming, as neither man was able to punch hard enough. Suffling did land a few good rights, it is true, but more harmful-looking punches he tried went astray owing to his bad judgment of distance. It was with the left that he scored chiefly, stabbing to the face and making use of an advantage he had in reach.

Daniels was the aggressor for a time, and tried left and right swings, but he was kept away by Suffling's defensive hitting, and eventually compelled to do a lot of retreating. At close-quarters the Herne Bay man was the better, and when he half-uppercut to the jaw and jolted to the body with the right in some rounds Daniels resorted to holding. After about half a dozen rounds, Suffling had matters much his own way, and he tried hard to bring off a knockout, but could never distress Daniels, though he punished him about the mouth for some rounds before the end was reached.

Ten rounds bouts resulted in Victor Childs (Bargoed) beating Johnny Wybrow (Hoxton) on points, and Bert Day (Brixton) knocking out Joe Mullings (Romford) in the fifth round.

MASCART AND DUNDEE.

Word comes from Paris that the manager of Mascart, the French featherweight, has received from New York, through the intermediary of the French Boxing Federation, a cable signed by the manager of Johnny Dundee, declaring that Dundee is ready to meet Mascart at any date. The "Auto" says that though the cable will not remain without a reply, it is not likely that Mascart will for the present embark on an undertaking for which he is not yet sufficiently prepared.

Joey Fox, of England, received a mugging last night at Lowell, Mass., where he was defeated in a ten rounder by Lew Paluso, of Salt Lake City, U., now of Leo P. Flynn's New York stable.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

ENGLAND'S STANDING IN THE BOXING WORLD— AMERICA LEADS THE WAY WITH SIX WORLD'S CHAMPIONS—THE QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO MAKE A GOOD BOXER.

With the passing of the old year the remark may be made that England's position in the boxing world is not what it ought to be, since it was in this country that the noble art of self defence had its origin. The time has passed since we were able to point to British boxers good enough to meet all comers from abroad, and to-day not one representative of Great Britain holds a world's title. Jimmy Wilde, our last man of that standing, was dethroned in 1923, and we feel none too optimistic about the future, despite the fact that boxers from this country are at present in America, seeking to attain world's championships. Roland Todd, Bermondsey Billy Wells, and Harry Mason are after middle, welter and lightweight honours respectively, but two of them, Todd and Wells, have been beaten recently, and the chance of Mason getting a fight with Benny Leonard is small.

America unquestionably leads the way in the boxing game to-day, for no less than six of her representatives, Jack Dempsey, Micky Walker, Benny Leonard, Johnny Dunder, Joe Lynch and Pancho Villa, hold world's titles, and Englishmen not only fail to hold their own with Americans nowadays but go under to Continental boxers. We are not badly off in the matter of European champions, perhaps, having Todd, "Kid" Lewis, Mason, and Johnny Brown, as such, but we badly need more classy men than these, and if such are forthcoming during 1924 they will be welcomed by all interested in the game.

A heavyweight is wanted more than anything else perhaps, for Georges Carpentier has bowled over far too many of our big fellows. Jack Bloomfield is regarded by some people as a man who may relieve Carpentier of the European heavyweight championship, and probably Jack will make the attempt to succeed where Billy Wells, Dick Smith, Joe Beckett and others have failed, but it will not be a surprise if he is beaten.

It is admitted by all boxing critics that the English boxers of to-day do not compare favourably with those of a few years ago produced here. Plenty of men are in the game striving to make their way to the top, but amongst them are to be found those who overlook the importance of training to get into the best possible condition, and few have the necessary qualifications wanted to make a good boxer. To a great

extent skilful boxing is a gift, but it is a gift which is the result of many gifts, and a good deal of practice and experience in the bargain. We propose to enumerate the qualifications which are wanted to make a class boxer, dividing them into four classes, and mentioning them according to their importance.

In the first class comes, above all, gameness. If a man has not the heart to stand punishment, he has no business to be a professional boxer. Next to gameness comes quickness. It is evident that without some fund of natural quickness to draw upon, good boxing is impossible. Next to a quick eye comes endurance. More good boxers are beaten through lack of staying powers or through their natural stamina being impaired than through anything else. In the second class may be put hard hitting. If a man be game, quick and enduring, and can punch hard, he may go very far indeed if properly instructed. Then there is that quality called "devil." In the four-cornered ring, which illustrates so well the survival of the fittest, in a certain sense at least, kindness and lack of nerve have no reason to be.

In the third class may be placed all those qualifications which may be acquired through instruction and practice. Of these, timing and judgment of distance are the most important. Good timing may be said to be the science of boxing. To strike at the right moment is not only to strike successfully, but also to strike hard. After the novice has been taught to get about on his feet and to hit with both hands he should practice timing incessantly. Timing and judgment of distance go hand in hand. It is only the man who can time well and can judge his distance correctly who is able to make anything like a decent lead-off with the left. Countering, feinting, ducking, breaking ground, even guardidng, all want correct timing and nice judgment of distance.

In the third class may also be put ring tactics and ring generalship. It would take too long to enumerate even the most common ring tactics or to explain what good generalship is. Formerly in knuckle fights the qualities of a good tactician and ring general were more wanted in a first-class pugilist than under the present rules. Good generalship is especially wanted in a first-class second. Through the good advice of a competent second, many a fight has been won.

In the fourth class may be put the physical advantages of height, weight, muscle, and reach. These qualities should not be excessive, or they may become serious defects. The advantage of height has been much over-rated. Great height only gives some material advantage in cross-countering, but for the rest it is a drawback.

A man who is too muscular has no business to turn professional boxer. He lacks the suppleness necessary, and when striking, instead of hitting, pushes, claws, or hits round. A boxer should have very loose shoulders to be able to hit quick and hard, and a muscle-bound man, being shoulder-tied, is only able to shove. A muscle-bound man when boxing always gives the impression of taking about a second to consider the blow he is going to strike, and five seconds in executing it. The mind may be fairly quick, but the mass of brawn is invariably slow. Some people may think that we made a slip of the pen when we included reach in the enumeration of the physical qualities that may become serious faults if excessive. It is not so. A very long reach is good at out-fighting, but is worse than useless in in-fighting, but in-fighting is a great and important item in boxing and fighting. Moreover, it stands to reason that very long arms must make a man slower, his fists have a longer way to travel when hitting and recovering. Face to face with a man with a long reach, the closer the short-armed man is, the safer. A clever boxer, quick on his pins and tricky with his head, laughs at a tremendously long reach.

To conclude, it must be remembered that the best-proportioned animals are not only the fairest to look upon, but generally the best for use, and that this applies to men also, and especially to athletes.

ERNIE RICE BEATEN IN PARIS.

Fred Bretonnel, the champion lightweight of France, who wants to dispute Harry Mason's right to the European championship, gave Ernie Rice a surprise when on Saturday last the pair met over the fifteen rounds course at the Velodrome d'Hiver, Paris. Rice went to the gay city in company with Manager Charlie Lucas, feeling confident he would triumph over the Frenchman, but the latter, who has much improved since three or four years ago he boxed as a youth at the Ring, notched points all along the line at a rapid rate, using his left very smartly in jabbing to the face. Rice was disappointing; he was slow, and over-cautious. When, leaving the defensive, he at times flashed out, but his right and left went wide of the mark. The result came as a surprise, as it had been generally expected that Bretonnel would not be able to withstand the hard hitting of Rice, who counted upon scoring an early knockout, but was himself floored for a count of nine in the second round.

AT THE RING.

THE BILLY MATTHEWS— DANNY FRUSH BOUT.

When Billy Matthews (St. James's) and Danny Frush (Aldgate) met at the Ring on Monday night to box the best of fifteen rounds, there was a big crowd on hand, and when the men had been in opposition for a little more than four sessions, the bout ended with Frush on the floor and counted out, but the spectators had to leave the hall without knowing the result, for, owing to Frush complaining that the body punch which floored him for the full count was a low one, the referee refused to give a decision pending the Aldgate man receiving a medical examination. Two doctors saw Frush in the dressing room, and one would not endorse the finding of the other, who said there was evidence of the boxer having been hit low; therefore, the announcement was made that the result would be made known the next day. The verdict then went to Frush on a foul.

While it lasted, the contest was rather exciting, with Frush on top most of the time, and Matthews came down to rights on the jaw no less than seven times, though only once for anything like a long count. He came up in a couple of seconds each time until in the fourth round, when, apparently beaten, he rose after resting for "eight." Frush, the cooler boxer, was too good for him, but he had to accept some harmful punches on the body at times, and, not relishing these clouts, looked appealingly to the referee, when, instead of objecting to Matthews's short-arm execution, he should have been fighting back or defending himself.

It was the opinion of many present that Frush should have been declared the loser in the fourth round, and the referee might have disqualified him, for Frush, when he floored his man for the third time in this session, hit Matthews while he was down. It seemed that the bout was at an end now, as, although the round had fully half a minute to go, the men went to their corners. The referee was in a quandary, and, after about a minute's cessation of hostilities, the men resumed boxing. Matthews was none the worse for his experience now, and he held his own in some give-and-take work to the end of the round. He fought fiercely in the fifth round, too, and when he upset Frush with the body blow already mentioned it appeared from the Press box that he landed above the belt. The referee was in the ring with the men at the time, and ought to have decided at once whether a foul had been committed or not.

Air-Mechanic Bills (R.A.F.) gained a very hard-earned decision over Sid Chilton (Kentish Town) at the end of a fifteen rounds "go," in which both men had to accept

much punishment. Bills was down twice, but he had Chilton shaken numerous times, and in most rounds hit the faster.

PAT McALLISTER DEFEATED.

Boxing at the Ring on Saturday last, Pat McAllister (Belfast), welterweight champion of Ireland, and holder of a championship belt presented by Mr. Jim Murphy, met with defeat at the hands of Peter Van Dam (Holland) in a fifteen rounds contest, which went all the way and was hard-fought. It was the Dutchman's second contest at the Blackfriars Road hall, as, a few weeks previously, he defeated Sid Chilton on points in a bout of the same duration.

Matched at 10st. 9lb., each man came well under weight, drawing only 10st. 3½lb. Van Dam appeared to be in better condition than the Irishman, who was a little flabby and for the greater part of the bout was slow. He did little leading at the outset, and came in for left and right swings prior to hooking the left to the face a few times and ducking the Dutchman's returns. McAllister dealt the heavier punches, but was not as forceful as Van Dam in the second and third rounds. At the fourth meeting, the Irishman was more disposed to attack than he had been, and sent in useful body blows, besides hooking the left to the jaw occasionally.

McAllister seemed to be getting the measure of his man, but Van Dam made good use of the ring in the fifth and ensuing two rounds, and hit the oftener. His blows were not damaging, however, and in the eighth stage McAllister had somewhat the better of matters, as he frequently attacked and sent the left to the face and body. In the ninth round the Irishman went down for a couple of seconds to a light punch on the side of the head, and he neither kept out nor countered many of the Dutchman's blows. At this stage the latter had a useful lead, but he was not able to add to it in the course of the tenth and eleventh rounds, during which McAllister made good use of a left hook to the jaw and body. His punches slowed Van Dam a trifle, and in each of the next three rounds the Dutchman's lead was reduced, but Van Dam was persistent in going after his rival, and in the fifteenth round he held his own. The decision against McAllister had a mixed reception, but the Dutchman, perhaps, held a slight lead.

Teddy Baker (Bermondsey) and Fred Brown (Birmingham) contested fifteen rounds, and the former won with plenty to spare, as he out-fought the Midlander from first to last. Brown boxed very gamely, surviving a knockdown in the fourth and another in the fifteenth rounds.

ARTHUR TYRRELL BEATS BILL HANDLEY.

Bill Handley, the Hackney lightweight, lost undeservedly to Arthur

Tyrrell, of Walsall, at the Ring last Thursday night, when the pair contested fifteen rounds in strenuous fashion. The referee's decision on points made Tyrrell the winner, but his finding came rather as a surprise, for Handley, though not in his best form, generally proved a little too clever for Tyrrell, a persevering fellow, who came in for punishment about the mouth, due to having little defence against his rival's left jabs.

Handley, who substituted for Jim Carroll, of Liverpool, at short notice, was much superior to the Black country boxer in the early rounds and he scored and evaded the majority of Tyrrell's returns so easily that there seemed little prospect of the Walsall man coming near to extending him. Tyrrell was much puzzled, but after four or five rounds he began to counter the Londoner's leads with left and right. He shook Handley with two or three rights to the jaw, and round about the half-way stage was doing as much of the attacking as Handley, who seemed to tire a little and hit rather wildly.

From the seventh round on to the fourteenth Tyrrell was a worrier, and he landed several good right-hand punches on the jaw and the side of the head. His left-hand hitting was equal to Handley's, too, except in the fourteenth and fifteenth essays, when the latter sent stinging shots to the face while permitting Tyrrell to attack. The latter missed far oftener than he landed now, and he was lucky to get the award at the finish.

Sam Minto (America) beat Patsy Coram (Marylebone) in a fifteen rounds contest, the latter, who was outfought and floored in the fifth, eighth and ninth essay, retiring after the bell had saved him at the close of the last-mentioned round.

PREMIERLAND.

MIKE HONEYMAN BEATS JOE CONN.

Joe Conn, of Bow, who has slipped back a good deal since the days when he ranked as one of the best featherweights in the country, was well beaten when on Sunday afternoon last at Premierland he and Mike Honeyman (Canning Town), former stable companions, met to box the best of fifteen three-minute rounds, and gave only a moderate display. Honeyman was the fitter man, and got about the ring more smartly than Conn, but he was content to flick his left to the face. At the beginning of the ninth round the referee called upon both men to box better, and during the round he stopped the contest and declared Honeyman the winner, on the ground that Conn was so far behind on points that he could neither win nor tie.

RACING NOTES

F. B. Rees and James Hogan, who have been waging a keen fight for the championship, each had one ride, in the same race, the Malvern Hurdle, at Cheltenham. The Lewes jockey was on the favourite, Jaeden, but Hogan's mount, Doublet, had few supporters. Doublet, however, showed up prominently for a long way, but it was Jaeden who was most in the picture at the finish, though he met one too good for him in By Proxy, on whom J. R. Anthony rode a strong finish.

It is reported that M. J. Wittouck, the Belgian sportsman who has a large string in France, has approached F. Bullock with a view to riding for him next year on Sundays, either in France or Belgium.

There is usually such a big demand for stabling at Cheltenham that the Executive are taking no risks in view of the National Hunt annual festival, and have had twenty new boxes erected practically on the course.

Frank Rhodes, the jockey, who was injured by the fall of Tally-ho at Derby, and who returned to his home at Lambourn on Saturday, is making rapid strides to recovery. He hopes to resume riding in two or three weeks' time.

There was little indication that Slovenly Saint was expected by his connections to beat The Bleeka in the Leckhampton Novices' Steeple Chase at Cheltenham, but, nicely handled by Moroney, he took up the running in the straight, and won in the style of a smart animal. The Bleeka was probably second best.

When Snipe's Bridge easily defeated Daisy Cutter early last month both carried the same weights. The pair again met in the Charlton Handicap Steeple Chase at Cheltenham, Daisy Cutter now having a pull of 5lb. This was not regarded as sufficient to bring about a reversal of the previous placings, but it was more than enough, Daisy Cutter beating the other by a length and a half.

Basil Jarvis states that he has not entered any of his charges for the

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forthcoming Lincolnshire Handicap, and that unless any of his patrons have made a nomination without acquainting him of the fact he will not be represented in the race. Jarvis also stated that Papyrus had wintered well, but no definite plans had been made with regard to the races the Derby winner would contest next season.

Mr. P. Roberts, who won the Amateur Riders' Hurdle at Cheltenham, was seen in the saddle more often some years ago than at the present time. The two greatest successes recorded by Mr. Roberts were those on Wychwood and Nimble Katie in the National Hunt Steeple Chase in 1909 and the following year. At that period the event was contested at Warwick, but it now appears to have found a permanent home at Cheltenham.

THIS WEEK'S RACING.

Large entries have been obtained for the various events to be decided during the week, when meetings (weather permitting) will be held at Manchester (Wednesday), Gatwick (Wednesday and Thursday) and Hurst Park (Friday and Saturday).

The following should go close to winning their respective engagements:—

MANCHESTER—WEDNESDAY.

The Broughton Hurdle Race—
GOLDEN DUKE.
The Peel Hurdle Race—
ACHILLEION.
The Victory Hurdle Race—
FLAMING SWORD.
The Manchester Steeple Chase—
DAISY CUTTER.
The Stand Hurdle Race—
POTHEEN or ENVOY.
The Canal Steeple Chase—
THE RED KNIGHT.

SAFETY FIRST.

WITH WHOM TO BET. AT HOME.

BURRELL, R.,
29, Ludgate Hill, E.C.
CHAPMAN, VILLIERS,
58a, Brompton Rd., London,
S.W. 3

COOPER, A.,
11, West Nile St., Glasgow.
DEY, THOMAS HENRY,
171, New Bond St., London.
BILLY DEW,
13, Bread St. Hill, London,
E.C.4
TICH, L. (W. J. Bowden),
98, Lowden Road,
Hefne Hill, S.B

TATTERSALLS:
ROGER WHITEMAN,
H. LEWIN,
GEO. CAMP,
BILLY DEW.

GATWICK—WEDNESDAY.

The Clayton Steeple Chase—
GOLDEN VICTORY.
The Horley Hurdle Race—
CHALTOI.
The Crawley Steeple Chase—
GORE'S SELECTED.
The Moderate Hurdle Race—
MITCHELLS.
The Purley Steeple Chase—
LOVELY BIRD.
Four-Year-Old Hurdle Race—
PERAHARA.

GATWICK—THURSDAY.

The Leatherhead Steeple Chase—
PROVIDENCE.
The Caterham Hurdle Race—
POOLE'S SELECTED.
The Hookwood Steeple Chase—
ST. BERNARD.
The Reigate Hurdle Race—
POOLE'S SELECTED.
The Amateur Steeple Chase—
BENNETT'S SELECTED.
The Maiden Hurdle Race—
DOMINICAN.

HURST PARK—FRIDAY.

The Amateurs' Steeple Chase—
HARTIGAN'S SELECTED.
The Cardinal's Hurdle Race—
QUESTIONNAIRE.
The Walton Steeple Chase—
BENNETT'S SELECTED.
The New Year Hurdle Race—
TOMAHAWK.
The January Steeple Chase—
RATTLE SNAKE.
The Mole Hurdle Race—
ST. CORENTIN.

HURST PARK—SATURDAY.

The Novices' Steeple Chase—
NORTH WALTHAM.
The Wolsey Hurdle Race—
YOUNG HEROINE.
The Mitre Steeple Chase—
GORE'S SELECTED.
The Richmond Hurdle Race—
CIVIC GUARD.
The Norbiton Steeple Chase—
MARTES.
The Mortlake Hurdle Race—
YORICK.

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FITZSIMMONS AT A FEAST.

Riled by Remark at the Table.

Some little time ago, when Joe Humphreys, formerly a prominent M.C. at boxing entertainments, and manager for Terry McGovern, met "Igoe," an American boxing scribe, talk drifted from one champion to another, and the first-named told a story that had never come to light before. It concerned Bob Fitzsimmons, and the passing of his championship to Jim Jeffries at the Coney Island Athletic Club some 25 years ago. Those who knew Fitz well were aware of his peculiar attacks of temperament before an important engagement in the ring. Not that he was like Jim Corbett, Tommy Ryan, Ketchel, McGovern, or Kid McCoy. They were notoriously on "high horse" before entering the ring to fight a man of ability. Corbett was the worst victim of "nerves"—fits of fretting and anxiety to hear the starting bell. This went on with Corbett for weeks before a big battle. Ketchel once said that the most tense moment of all was waiting in the corner for the bell to ring after having heard the referee's instructions. Fitzsimmons would go along quietly, apparently unconcerned about a coming bout. He was for ever indulging in horse play with his sparring mates. He would turn them upside down, bed and all, in the middle of the night, build fires under their cottages, shove them into the swimming pool clothes and all, slap them on the back with his open hand when they ate green peas, put turtles or big gopher snakes in their beds where they would be sure to be found the moment the coverlets were turned back at night. All these pranks tended to create the idea that Fitzsimmons was nerveless and callous to the possibility of a ring tragedy being visited upon himself. "Deep down in his heart, though," said Humphreys, "Fitzsimmons was a bunch of live wire nerves. He felt the coming of a fight as keenly as the next man. Only he had the marvellous knack of hiding it from the world, and especially the man he was fighting. That's why he was able to get up on the floor groggy and knock an almost certain winner cold. He was great in more ways than mere fighting. He understood human nature, and even the nature of wild beasts better than any man I ever knew. I remember going over to visit him at his farm at Dunellen, N.J. He had a lion leashed to a wire clothes line, and that lion would do everything but talk for Bob. When I got there, Bob was sitting on the front porch with a hedgehog on his knee. He had just taken it from a trap that he had set out in the garden in a dandelion bed. Bob was fond of dandelion salad, and the hedgehog had the same longing. Fitz carefully removed the animal's foot from the trap, and when I walked

up he 'shushed' me. He was 'making friends' with the hedgehog, and this is how he did it. He knew all about the art, and, especially, the foolhardiness of chumming up with a hedgehog from the front, within reach of his inch-long teeth. Bob was carefully stroking the animal's tail and back, and, ferocious as the little beasts are, it was actually dozing under the spell of Bob's petting. 'I've 'ad him like this for an hour,' said Fritz, in his usual Cornish H-clipping brogue. 'Hanimals will believe in you if you get into their confidence,' he went on. 'This fellow would tear my 'and off if I didn't impress on his little mind that I want to be 'is friend. Give the most vicious dog in the world the back of your 'and, and 'e'll never bite you. Go to pet 'is 'ed with the palm of your 'and, and he'll think you're going to strike him. It's come down to them from their wolf days. You must create confidence in man and beast in this world,' mused old Bob. 'If I begin at this 'edgehog's 'ead he'd eat me alive.' Now let me tell the story that proves that Fitzsimmons was worried—was fretful before a fight," continued Humphreys. "He was to box Jeffries in defence of the title he had won by beating Jim Corbett at Carson City. Fitzsimmons was training for Jeffries, and had Ernest Roeber, Yank Kenny, and several others helping him. Jeffries was not considered, at the time, the wonder he eventually developed into. Tommy Ryan had worked hard with Jeff after he had coached him into using the crouch and his great left hand to advantage. There was the usual excitement that always precedes a championship match, and the newspapers were ablaze with the stories of the men in camp. Three days before the fight Fitzsimmons asked his housekeeper, a wonderful cook, to make a pot of his favourite dish—tripe with curry. Fitz had talked about it for a week, and he had everybody's mouth watering with his own longing for the dish. Especially Yank Kenny, who told me the story, was primed for a plunge at the coming feast. Then came the day when it was set before the wondering eyes of the camp. Rose Julian, Fitzsimmons' wife, and her sister were at the table as the great platter of tripe-curry was placed upon the board. With great gusto and many courtesies, Fitzsimmons sat down at the head of the table. The platter had been placed before him so that he could serve the guests and help-mates. Kenny was at the far end of the table eagerly drinking in the aroma of the curry. Roeber smacked his lips like some great cat. Fitzsimmons reached for a giant ladle, and said proudly, 'A dish fit for the kings of the universe.' His sister-in-law, always trying to

keep Bob in a good humour before a bout, answered this remark innocently enough with: 'Fit for the kings of the universe, and they had to go and set it before a mere heavy-weight champion of the world. What a lucky fellow you are, Bob Fitzsimmons.' I'll let Kenny tell what followed in his way," went on Humphreys. "I don't know how the girl's remarks hit Bob the way it did," Kenny said. "I don't get it even now." But it only went to show that Fitz was pretending to be carefree on the fight when he really was on hair-trigger. Maybe, I don't know, but I do know that Bob stood up at this place, seized the big platter of tripe-curry, and dashed it down on the centre of the table with all of his giant's strength. I never saw such splash, and never knew a plate could crack up into so many small pieces. The only bit of the tripe-curry that I got was a speck that flew on my upper lip right under my nose. Fitz turned on his heel and stalked out of the room, got into his city clothes, and was gone. We knew what it meant. He was going to break training, hit the high places, and he did. He champagned himself blue in the face, and we hunted high and low for him. It was a sad Bob Fitzsimmons that we finally brought up with. It was too late to postpone the fight, but it was a shame that a man had to go in and defend his title in the state of 'shakes' Fitz was in. He demanded a lot of ale before he entered the ring, and I know that his brain was reeling. Jeffries didn't whip the real Fitzsimmons." "But," concluded Humphreys, "he whipped the champion, and all because of a remark made over a platter of tripe-curry. If it hadn't been for that remark Fitzsimmons would have retained his championship."

AMERICAN BOXING GOSSIP.

By "Doc" Almy.

Boston, December 20th.—Back in the harness again for the "Boxing World and Mirror of Life." It is a pleasure to return to the columns, to meet many of the old friends again, and, it is to be hoped, make many new ones. My paragraphs may sound a bit erratic at times, mistakes may occur here and there as none of us are perfect, but when it comes to conscientious effort and service in behalf of the readers and the calling of a spade a spade, I doff my cap to none. Let's get busy.

* * *

The European contention that Mike McTigue, of Ireland, now a naturalised American, is not the holder of the world's light-heavy title because of his alleged failure to weigh-in for his fight with Battling Siki in Dublin last March, has at last become the subject for controversy on this side of the water. The writer, as some may recall, was

THE Sporting Observer



slow to be convinced that Mike was not entitled to the championship, and debated the subject to considerable length, supposing all along that the Irishman had weighed in prior to the contest. Major Wilson and others, however, have declared that he did not go on to the scales, all of which puts a different light on the whole subject.

* * *

"The Ring," the New York boxing publication, states editorially that while there may be some doubt as to whether McTigue weighed in or not for his fight with Siki in Dublin last March 17th, Mike is the champion just the same because he ordinarily weighs 165lb. While it is probably true that Mike usually fights at about 165lb., no one knows for a certainty just what Mike weighed when he fought Siki. If world's championship contests are to become the subject for guesswork, one man's guess is as good as another, consequently, the opinion of those who hold that Mike did not win the title is fully as good as the declaration of his admirers that he is the champion. There is one way in which the point can be definitely settled if either has any real desire to try it out.

* * *

Charley Harvey, of New York, was in town yesterday in behalf of Billy Wells, the British welter, also other members of his stable. In particular, he would like to match Wells against Jock Malone, George Ward, Tommy Loughran or Eddie Shevlin before any of the Boston clubs. Wells, at present is in training at Summit, N.J., where he is being assisted by Jack Dempsey, long his friend, and other boxers quartered there.

* * *

"It is quite true," said Harvey, "that Wells has lost two fights. I am not apologising for him at all. But in the same breath I want the fans to remember that before losing two decisions Billy Wells had won 200. Don't overlook that. I want to keep him busy because it is rust that uses up a boxer more than about anything else, but I am having a job of it to get him bouts."

Harvey, though not concerned in the management of Frank Moody, the British middleweight now in this country, is a great rooter for Billy Ames' protege. "I won't say that he can defeat Ted Moore, also of England," said Harvey, "but I am sure of this: he has a win over Moore already, will meet him again any time and can whip more men of his weight than can ever defeat him."

* * *

Billy Ames, mentioned in a foregoing paragraph, has won many friends here, and is keeping his boxers, Ted Marchant and Frank Moody, fairly busy. The former, however, has met with several reverses. Ames is anxious to pit Moody against Ted Moore, his countryman, before one of the Boston or Gotham clubs, and in a letter to the writer says in part: "I think so well of Moody that I stand ready to match him against Moore on a winner-take-all basis, also with the understanding that the loser shall return to England at once. I have put this offer up to Tom O'Rourke, who is caring for Moore's affairs, and I hope that he will be game enough to accept it."

* * *

In the ring of the Armory A.A., in this city on Tuesday night, Johnny Wilson, the former middleweight champion, who is now boxing in better form than ever before in his career, defeated Pat McCarthy, of Roxbury, Mass., in three rounds, in a contest generally regarded as an elimination fray for a match with Harry Greb, present holder of the championship. Despite his quick defeat, McCarthy made a very good showing, had Wilson into the ropes several times, evened the first round and had the second by a good margin. In the first minute of the third frame, the men got in close, and Wilson hooked a left that opened a cut an inch long over Pat's right eye. Though not injured in the general sense, nor even driven back, the flood of colour from the gash practically blinded McCarthy, and placed him at the mercy of the ex-champion. They went through the round, and in the rest period following it, the sponge was thrown for McCarthy. Wilson

stands tentatively matched with Greb for a battle in the Garden, New York, January 18th, for the title. If the contest takes place, Wilson appears to have a good chance to regain his former honours, as Greb is going down the ladder.

* * *

Speaking of New York, some weird decisions of late, particularly one of last week, when Joe Bernstein defeated Johnny Dundee but failed to get the award, have stirred up a turmoil in the big city, and an effort is being made to do away with the present system of referee and two judges. There also is much criticism of the way the sport is being conducted in general.

* * *

We have the same system of referee and two judges in this city, and, while it has worked out fairly well, it is being urged by the writer that the individual ruling of the referee and judges on each bout shall be made public as soon as given that the fistic fans may know who's who in the casting of the votes. Publicity would tend to make the ring officials give closer attention to their knitting, and prevent injury to the sport. There has been too much secrecy and hiding behind someone else.

* * *

Dundee's long years in the game have taken their toll, though he has been well repaid for his work and has plenty of money. He is about "shot." Prior to his recent defeat by Bernstein, which the judges at the ringside converted into a victory, he was whipped in ten rounds by Al Shubert, the New Bedford, Mass., featherweight, in a bout in that city. Danny Frush, of England, had no trouble in defeating Shubert two years ago, so it may be gathered that Al is not in the front rank at present.

—•••—

Since Ern Baxter won the featherweight championship of Australia from Billy Grime a few months ago, he has not won a single contest. What's more, he has been knocked out on each occasion upon which he has entered the ring.